

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**September 17, 2007**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, September 17, 2007, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Shea Butcher was not in attendance. Leslie Ryan was also present.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on August 20, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on August 20, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.**

## **Reports**

**William Padien reported that H.V. Collins, some sub-contractors, the architect, and the town attorney were here a couple of weeks ago to go through the punch list. A number of items were completed. They**

are trying to get the rest of the items resolved, including those in the shop, before going to arbitration. The dust collector system is up and running. Mr. Padien had a conversation several days ago with Joe Sprague in hopes of getting the handicap ramp, the basketball stanchions, and the concrete slab outside the shop done in the next couple of weeks. Any digging around the playground will wait until the Thanksgiving vacation. The green asphalt roof was finished this afternoon.

Matthew Moran gave a brief athletic report, stating that Heinz Field has been officially closed for a year-long renovation. He thanked Rob Closter, Kirk Littlefield, John Kisseberth, and others for their help moving the school's equipment from the field. In addition, Mr. Littlefield installed the posts to chain off the entrance to the school field. Mr. Moran wondered if there was any way to take care of the ruts and divots in the field. Mr. Padien stated that he would speak with the town manager about this. Mr. Moran reported that they are experimenting with fielding a girls' soccer team this year and have scheduled two games. When questioned by Sean McGarry about fielding soccer teams of eight players, Mr. Moran stated that he was not aware of anyone in Rhode Island going in this direction, but would look into it. Richard Tretheway complimented the communication to parents by Coach Kisseberth, stating that the communication has jumped into the 21st century. Mr. Moran will begin scheduling varsity basketball games October 1.

**Dr. Irving reported on the following:**

- **Six teachers have “volunteered” for the Principal’s Advisory Committee. It was decided that they would split the stipend and receive \$1,000 each. She feels this is better representation for all levels and can hold meetings even if one member is ill or off island. Meetings will be held on Wednesday afternoons.**
- **John Barry will be providing training on the Apple computers.**
- **The Student Handbook has been updated, but this document is more for the secondary students and their parents. The elementary teachers are working on a supplement for the lower grades, which will be submitted when completed.**
- **The Program of Studies used for scheduling courses this year needs to be revised. The PAC will be reviewing this document and deleting courses no longer offered or changing descriptions as necessary. This document will be submitted when completed.**
- **The annual Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19. Parents will be reminded that their children should not be running around the building and discourage them from having individual meetings with teachers. Children will be the guides for their parents.**
- **Anyone who visits the school during the day should sign in and get a visitor’s pass. When they are ready to leave they should return the pass and sign out. She does not know everyone and will be making sure that all sign in. In addition, the playground is not for general use during school hours.**
- **The “Student of the Week” will begin this week, but a new item has**

been added this year. An anonymous person has donated star charms in memory of Andrew Leone who recently passed away. Each student will get one when he/she is named Student of the Week.

- The senior class will be sailing aboard The Spirit of Massachusetts tomorrow. Students in grades 5-7 will go aboard on Wednesday morning, but will be back in time for lunch.
- School pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 26.
- There have been a lot of computer problems this year with many staff members unable to check e-mail or go online. As the principal she feels there is a great need for an in-house technology person. The Technology Committee is in attendance to discuss this issue in greater detail later in the meeting.

Mrs. Ryan reported that the school year is off to a good start with a spotless facility and a new leadership team. Amy Couet, the new maintenance supervisor, is doing a great job. Dr. Irving and Patricia Ustick, the new guidance counselor, have already tackled some big issues, including some scheduling problems. She reiterated the need for help with the technology/computer problems in the school.

Mrs. Ryan stated that she had received a request for an unpaid leave of absence from Toni Lemoine so she could deal with family issues. A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve Toni Lemoine's request for a leave of absence without pay through the end of November 2007 carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

**Mrs. Ryan reported that the security cameras are scheduled to be installed in October. All teachers have been given keys to their classrooms and the lockdown procedures will be discussed with the students before any drills occur.**

**Mrs. Ryan stated that she would like to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship where she would spend three weeks in a foreign country working with an administrator and then that administrator would come here and spend three weeks with us. Committee members felt it would be a remarkable opportunity and agreed she should proceed.**

### **Old Business**

**Mrs. Ryan stated that she had met with the Technology Committee and realized that we are in the middle of a crisis. There are over 60 computers in the school and people cannot access their e-mail or get onto the Internet to do research. A committee of sorts (Gene Warfel, John Barry, and Hank Woodward) was trying to address our needs. However, John Barry is in the process of moving off island. Gene Warfel has a six-month contract and was trying to work remotely, but it became evident that someone was needed on-site for support this year. Technology at the school has grown to where one person working as a full-time teacher cannot adequately address the needs of the computer system. It was decided to utilize Hank Woodward's services more than what was originally anticipated and his time has**

been increased to 35 hours per week. He will provide administrative support and training, file required forms for E-rate, and apply for funding. In addition, work will need to be done in the summertime, such as defragging all of the computers and making sure that all are ready for the next school year. Mrs. Ryan stated that Gene Warfel felt strongly that Mr. Woodward would be able to manage all of this. The in-house position would be year-to-year as a consultant with no benefits provided. The position will be re-evaluated during the budgeting process in January. Mrs. Ryan wanted the committee to be aware that the technology line item could go over budget by as much as \$17,000. It was suggested that the Technology Committee meet monthly with Mr. Woodward. Dr. Irving stated she would be a member of that committee and can keep the School Committee informed.

### **New Business**

A motion (Padien, Hall) to post Policy FBP: Cooperative Work Study/Internship Program as presented for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

The Kindergarten Admission Policy (II) was updated to include the process to seek a waiver of the age requirement as set by the State of Rhode Island. A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to post Policy II: Kindergarten Admission for the required 30-day period was withdrawn by Mr. Padien after discussion. School Committee members were not in favor of the school paying for the testing,

thinking that every parent would want his/her child tested. Mrs. Ryan stated that she had spoken with an attorney at RIDE who told her that to require parents to pay for the evaluation may be a hardship for some families. It was suggested that policies from other districts be reviewed, that this policy be sent to our attorney before posting, and that the PAC be given a chance to address it.

John Warfel reported that his CAD class has been working with Derek van Lent to design a plan for the north side of the building outside the cafeteria, which includes the possibility of re-grading and fixing the outside delivery and dumpster areas for safer and easier use. The design, which is almost finished, may include excavating about 10 feet of land, putting in a retaining wall for the dumpster, making an area for picnic tables for use by students at lunchtime, and installing a fence/divider on the field side of the driveway to address safety issues. The committee members see no problem trying to improve the area, but the work may have to be done a little at a time.

Correspondence was received from William Young requesting additional funding for the senior class Close-Up trip to Washington, DC scheduled for January. Mr. Young is planning to take the entire senior class, which is the largest group the school has sent (16 students), at a cost of approximately \$1554 per student. Because of the large number of students there are additional costs that he has not experienced before, such as transportation, lodging before and/or after the trip, and a second chaperone. He requested that the School

Committee re-examine what was originally budgeted for this trip and consider increasing it. Each student is expected to contribute \$250 and he is hoping for an additional \$7612 from the School Committee, which would leave them with a substantial amount of money to fund raise. School Committee members suggested that Mr. Young come back after the fund raisers with an exact amount that is needed. Mr. Young preferred a firm commitment from the committee knowing that the students would need to raise \$7,000. The School Committee agreed to cover the cost of the deposit, which is due October 1 and felt they should do what they can to meet the shortfall, but would need to check with Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Ryan before making that kind of commitment. The committee will make a decision at the next meeting.

Robert Closter submitted correspondence thanking the School Committee for the use of the school facilities this past summer and included a summary of the program hours actually spent in the building, for a total of 141 hours. He also submitted correspondence requesting a waiver of facility use fees for all recreational programs during the 2008 fiscal year. Mr. Closter was hoping he could have the same days and times in the gym as in previous years, but has not submitted facility use forms because the athletic director has not scheduled the use of the gym for basketball season. Mr. McGarry stated that he would rather vote on each individual request instead of a blanket request of all recreational programs. Mr. Padien would like to keep track of the usage and Mr. Closter is more than willing to do



so. While Mr. Padien is in favor of a waiver for the children's programs, he is not in favor of a complete waiver for the adult programs. A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to grant the request for a waiver was withdrawn after a lengthy discussion. Annie Hall, in her capacity as chair of the Wellness Committee, felt the school should do whatever it could to get people physically active. A motion by Mr. Padien to approve the fee waiver request for all recreational events during FY 08 with the stipulation that at the October meeting such waivers may be revoked based on information presented at that time was never seconded. A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the request for a fee waiver for upcoming recreational programs for FY 08 was defeated with a vote of 1-3 with Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to consent to the appointment of Jonathan D'Amico as the music teacher carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative. Mr. D'Amico will be compensated \$37,793 (Step 1) for the 2007-2008 school year.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to consent to the appointment of Robert Closter, Jr. as an adapted physical education Teacher carried with a vote of 4-0. Mr. Closter will be compensated at the rate of \$41.53 per hour, which is based on Step 1 of the salary scale.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Joanne Warfel as the High School Reform Coordinator carried with a vote of

**4-0. Mrs. Warfel will work one period per day as part of her duties as a full-time teacher with no additional compensation.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to consent to the appointment of Jennifer Freund as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-0. Ms Freund will be compensated at the rate of \$13.50 per hour.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointments of Susan Gibbons, Nancy Greenaway, Deborah Hart, Barbara Michel, Bonnie Swienton, and Martha Velie-Gass to the Principal's Advisory Committee carried with a vote of 4-0. Each will receive a \$1,000 stipend for the year.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to consent to the appointment of Amy Dugan as the yearbook advisor carried with a vote of 4-0. This position comes with a \$1,500 stipend.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to consent to the appointment of Shannon McCabe, Alexis McCabe, and Teyarra Kermen as bus monitors for the 2007-2008 school year carried with a vote of 4-0. The rate of pay for bus monitors is \$10.00 per bus run.**

**Dr. Irving requested that both the Student Handbook and the Program of Studies be tabled until further revisions can be made.**

**Calendar of Events**

**A calendar of events for the months of September and October was submitted for School Committee information.**

### **Correspondence**

**Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information.**

### **Executive Session**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:51 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 4-0.**

### **Open Session**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) at 10:05 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the contract between Leslie Ryan and the New Shoreham School Committee as presented carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 10:05 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: October 15, 2007**